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Senate

The 3d day of January being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress, the 2d session of the 104th Congress commenced this day at 12 noon.

The Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol.

The Senate was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The hour of 12 noon on January 3 having arrived, pursuant to the Constitution of the United States, the 1st session of the Senate in the 104th Congress has come to an end and the 2d session commences.

The majority leader addressed the Chair.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. I think leader time was reserved.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is correct.

A REVIEW OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I wanted to quickly review the historic 1st session of the 104th Congress, the first Republican Congress in 40 years.

On January 3, 1995, I spoke from this podium and outlined the agenda the Republican Senate would be advancing.

Exactly 1 year has now passed since that day, and as we begin the second session of this Congress, I would now like to offer a progress report to the American people—detailing the promises we kept in 1995, and the work we hope to complete in 1996.

As I said on the first day of this session, the primary goal of this Congress would not be to pass unnecessary new laws—but instead to remember a timeless one—the 10th amendment to our Constitution.

That, of course, is the amendment that sets out the principle of federalism, stating that “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people.”

Shifting power out of Washington, and returning it to our States, our cities, our neighborhoods, and to the American people. That’s what the 10th amendment is all about.

And that is exactly what the 104th Congress has been about since day one—and since Senate bill 1—which put an end to unfunded Federal mandates.

That is what we were about when we passed landmark welfare reform legislation that will give our States the flexibility to design programs that best meet the needs of their citizens.

And that is what we have been about these past few weeks, as we continue our fight for a balanced budget that will ensure a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

As budget negotiations continue, it is important to note that for as much as this Congress has accomplished in giving Government back to the American people, there is more we could have accomplished—had President Clinton not time and again stood in the way of fundamental change.

In fact, it was President Clinton’s active opposition that prevented the Senate by just one vote from joining the House in sending a balanced budget

amendment to our States for approval. And it was his veto of the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 that put us in the situation we are now in.

Had President Clinton not chosen to engage on a campaign to scare the American people, America’s seniors would be beginning 1996 secure in the knowledge that Medicare was solvent.

It seems to me that we have made some progress, but we need to make more, and whether or not that can be done will be determined, I assume, in the next very few days.

It is also worth noting that President Clinton’s misguided insistence on the status quo has prevented the enactment of much-needed regulatory reform legislation which would ease the burden of Government redtape and regulations on America’s small business men and women.

Let me make it clear that although we are very frustrated with the President’s actions, we have not given up on a balanced budget or on regulatory reform.

Something else we have not given up on is doing everything we can to help law-abiding Americans in the fight against crime and drugs.

In the wake of the terrible tragedy in Oklahoma City, the Senate moved quickly to pass antiterrorism legislation. And at our insistence, this legislation included historic habeas corpus reform, which would put a limit on frivolous lawsuits that convicted felons use to clog our courts and delay justice.

Republicans also included a number of tough anticrime provisions in the Commerce, State, Justice Department appropriations bill. Unfortunately, President Clinton vetoed the bill.

I know that the distinguished chair of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, will continue to look for ways in which Congress can provide the leadership in the fight against crime that has been missing at the White House.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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